

# 2006 SPECIAL SESSION I

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5151

Offered September 27, 2006

*Celebrating the life of Robey W. Estes, Sr.*

Patrons—Janis, Cox, Hargrove, Howell, W.J., Lingamfelter, Nixon, O'Bannon, Peace, Reid, Saxman and Ware, R.L.

WHEREAS, Robey W. Estes, Sr., respected trucking industry leader and owner of Estes Express Lines, died on August 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes was born in Mecklenburg County, graduated from Chase City High School, and loved driving a company truck even as a teenager, especially when he was paired with his brother Edwin Estes; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes served his country in the United States Army during World War II, participated in D-Day at Normandy, and was twice wounded and awarded the Purple Heart for his valiant actions in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, destined to become a dynamic leader and businessman, Robey Estes left the University of Richmond in 1946 to help his father, founder W. W. Estes, in the family's trucking business, Estes Express Lines; and

WHEREAS, continuing the family tradition of exemplary service, Robey Estes served as Estes Express Lines general manager from 1953 to 1971, president from 1971 to 1990, chairman of the board from 1971 to 2001, and chairman emeritus from 2001 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes was instrumental in transforming Estes Express Lines into the fastest growing multiregional, less-than-truckload and truckload transportation systems in the country; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes oversaw construction of the Estes Express Lines' South Richmond terminal, greatly expanded operations, and continually enhanced and improved the organization's safety record, customer service, and financial stability; and

WHEREAS, by the time Robey Estes turned Estes Express Lines over to his son in 1990, he had tripled the number of employees and increased the organization's revenue tenfold; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes, Sr., along with his son Robey Jr., was awarded Ernst & Young's Virginia Lifetime Achievement Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2003, and he was inducted into the Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes will be fondly remembered for his enthusiasm and love of the trucking business—he regularly drove Estes trucks on short hauls as an executive—and for his thoughtfulness and immense respect and concern for his employees; and

WHEREAS, Robey Estes will be greatly missed by his son, Robey Jr., and his daughters, Mary Sue and Carol; his loving brother, sisters, and numerous other family members; and his countless friends and colleagues; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly mourn the passing of a trucking industry leader and outstanding Virginian, Robey W. Estes, Sr.; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Robey W. Estes, Sr., as an expression of the General Assembly's respect for his memory.

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